

THIRD DISTRICT.—THUNDERBOLT.

On the 23d of March, persons from Clay, Jackson, and Howard counties, Mo., began to come into Tecumseh, in wagons, carriages, and on horseback, armed with guns, bowie-knives, and revolvers; and with threats, encamped close by the Iowa, and continued camping until the day of election. The night before the election, two hundred men were sent for from the camp of Missourians at Lawrence. On the morning of the election, before the polls were opened, some three hundred or four hundred Missourians and others were collected in the yard about the house of Thomas Silson, where the election was to be held, armed with bowie-knives, revolvers, and clubs. They said they came to vote, and whip the damned Yankees, and would vote without being sworn. Some said they came to have a fight, and wanted one. Col. Samuel H. Woodson, of Independence, Mo., was in the room of the Judges when they arrived, preparing poll books and tally-lists, and remained there during their attempts to organize. The room of the Judges was also filled by many of the strangers. The Judges could not agree concerning the oath to be taken by themselves and the oath to be administered to the voters, Mr. Burgess desiring to administer the oath prescribed by the Governor, and the other two Judges opposing it. During this discussion between the Judges, which lasted some time, the crowd outside became excited and noisy, threatening and cursing Mr. Burgess, the free state Judge. Persons were sent at different times by the crowd outside into the room where the Judges were, with threatening messages, especially against Mr. Burgess, and at last ten minutes were given them to organize or to leave; and as the time passed, persons outside would call out the number of minutes left, with threats against Burgess, if he did not agree to organize. At the end of that time, the Judges not being able to organize, left the room and the crowd proceeded to elect nine Judges and carry on the election. The free state men generally left the ground without voting, stating that there was no use of this voting there. The polls were so crowded during the first part of the day that the citizens could not get up to the window to vote. Threats were made against the free state men. In the afternoon the Rev. Mr. Gilpatrick was attacked and driven off by the mob. A man by the name of "Texas," made a speech to the crowd, urging them to vote and to remain on the ground till the polls were closed, for fear the Abolitionists would come there in the afternoon and overpower them, and thus they would lose all their trouble.

For making an affidavit in a protest against the election, setting forth the facts, Mr. Burgess was indicted by the Grand Jury for perjury, which indictment was found more than fifteen months ago, and is still pending. Mr. Burgess never having been informed who his accuser was, or what was the testimony against him. A large majority, four to one, of the actual settlers of the district were free state men, and there can not be the least doubt that if none but the actual settlers of the district had voted at the election, the free state candidates would have been elected. The number of legal votes in the district; according to the census returns, was 101. The total number of votes cast was 372, and of those but 32 are on the returns, and from the testimony and records, we are satisfied that not over forty legal votes were cast at the election. A body of armed Missourians came into the district previous to the election, and encamped there. Before the time arrived for opening the polls, the Missourians went into another than the town appointed for the election; and one of the Judges appointed by the Governor and two chosen by the Missourians proceeded to open the polls and carry on the election. The Missourians said none but free state men should vote, and threatened to shoot any free state man who should come up to vote. Mr. Muckler, one of the Judges elected by the Missourians, had a store near the boundary, fixed by the proclamation of the Governor, while he cultivated a farm in Missouri, where his family lived, and where his legal residence was then and is now. The Missourians also held a side election for Governor of the Territory, voting for Thomas Johnson of Shawnee Mission. The free state men, finding the polls under the control of non-residents refused to, and did not, vote. They constituted a decided majority of the actual settlers. A petition signed by a majority of the residents, of the district, was sent to the Governor. The whole number of voters in this district, according to the census returns was 47; the number of votes cast was 80, of whom but 15 were residents; the number of residents whose names are on the census rolls, who did not vote, was 32.

For some days prior to the election, companies of men were organized in Jackson, Cass and Clay counties, Mo., for the purpose of coming to the Territory and voting in the 5th district. The day previous to the election, some 400 or 500 Missourians, armed with guns, pistols and knives, came into the Territory and camped, some at Bull Creek and others at Potawatamie Creek. Their camps were about 16 miles apart. On the evening before the election, Judge Hamilton, of the Cass County Court, Mo., came from the Potawatamie Creek camp to Bull Creek for 60 more Missourians, as they had not enough there to render the election certain, and about that number went down there with him. On the evening before the election Dr. B. C. Westfall was elected to act as one of the Judges of Election in the Bull Creek precinct, in place of one of the Judges appointed by the Governor, who it was said, would not be there the next day. Dr. Westfall was at that time a citizen of Jackson county, Missouri. On the morning of election, the polls for Bull Creek precinct were opened, and, without warning the Judges, they proceeded to receive the votes of all who offered to vote. For the sake of appearance, they would get some one to come to the window, and offer to vote, and when asked to be sworn he would pretend to grow angry at the Judges, and would go away, and his name would be put down as having offered to vote, but "refused, refusing to be sworn." This arrangement was made previously, and perfectly understood by the Judges. But few of the residents of the District were present at the election, and only 13 voted. The number of votes cast in the precinct was 32.

One Missourian voted for himself and then voted for his little son, but 10 or 11 years old. Col. Coffey, Henry Younger, and Mr. Lykins who were voted for and elected to the Legislature, were residents of Missouri at the time. Col. Coffey subsequently married in the Territory. After the polls were closed the returns were made, and a man claiming to be a magistrate, certified on them that he had sworn the Judges of election before opening the polls. In the Potawatamie precinct, the Missourians attended the election, and after threatening Mr. Chesnut, the only Judge present appointed by the Governor, to induce him to resign, they proceeded to elect two other Judges—one a Missourian and the other a resident of another precinct of that District. The polls were then opened, and all the Missourians were allowed to vote without being sworn.

After the polls were closed, and the returns made out for the signature of the Judges, Mr. Chesnut refused to sign them, as he did not consider them correct returns of legal voters.

Col. Coffey, a resident of Missouri, but elected to the Kansas Legislature from that District at that election, endeavored with others to induce Mr. Chesnut by threats to sign the returns, which he refused to do, and left the house. On his way home he was fired at by some Missourians, though not injured. There were three illegal to one legal votes given there that day. At the Big Laver precinct, the Judges appointed by the Governor met at the time appointed, and proceeded to open the polls, after being duly sworn. After a few votes had been received, a party of Missourians came into the yard of the house where the election was held, and unloading a wagon filled with arms, stacked their guns in the yard, and came up to the window and demanded to be admitted to vote. Two of the Judges decided to receive their votes, whereupon the third Judge, Mr. J. M. Arthur, resigned, and another was chosen in his place. Col. Young, a citizen of Missouri, but a candidate for and elected to the Territorial Legislative Council, was present and voted in the precinct. He claimed that all Missourians who were present on the day of election were entitled to vote. But thirty or forty of the citizens of the precinct were present, and many of them did not vote. At the Little Sugar precinct, the election seemed to have been conducted fairly, and there a free state majority was polled. From the testimony, the whole district appears to have been largely free state, and had none but actual settlers voted the free state candidates would have been elected by a large majority. From a careful examination of the testimony and the records, we find that from 200 to 225 legal votes were polled out of 885, the total number given in the precincts of the 5th district. Of the legal votes cast, the free state candidates received 152.

SIXTH DISTRICT.—FORT SCOTT.

A company of citizens from Missouri, mostly from Bates County, came into this District the day before the election, some camping and others putting up at the public house. They numbered from 100 to 200, and came in wagons and on horse back, carrying their provisions and tents with them, and were generally armed with pistols. They declared their purpose to vote, and claimed the right to do so. They went to the polls generally in small bodies with tickets in their hands, and many, if not all, voted. In some cases they declared that they had voted and gave their reasons for so doing. Mr. Anderson, a pro-slavery candidate for the Legislature, endeavored to dissuade the non-residents from voting, because he did not wish the election contested. This person, however, insisted upon voting, and upon his right to do so. No one was challenged or sworn, and all voted who desired to. Out of three hundred and fifty votes cast, not over one hundred were legal, and but sixty-four of those named in the census taken one month before by Mr. Barber, the candidate for Council, voted. Many of the free state men did not vote, but your Committee is satisfied that, of the legal votes cast, the pro-slavery candidate received a majority. Mr. Anderson, one of those candidates, was an unmarried man, who came into the District from Missouri, a few days before the election, and boarded at the public house until the day after election. He then took with him the poll lists, and did not return to Fort Scott until the occasion of a barbecue the week before the election of Oct. 1, 1855. He voted at that election, and after it left, and has not since been in the District. S. A. Williams, the other pro-slavery candidate, at the time of the election had a claim in the Territory, but his legal residence was not there until after the election.

SEVENTH DISTRICT.

From two to three hundred men from the State of Missouri came in wagons or on horseback to the election ground at Switzer's creek, in the 7th District, and encamped near the polls on the day preceding the election. They were armed with pistols and other weapons, and declared their purpose to vote, in order to secure the election of pro-slavery members. They said they were disappointed in not finding more Yankees there, and that they had brought more men than were necessary to counterbalance their vote. A number of them wore badges of blue ribbon, with a motto, and the company were under the direction of leaders. They declared their intention to conduct themselves peacefully, unless the residents of the territory attempted to stop them from voting. Two of the Judges of Election appointed by Gov. Reeder, refused to serve, whereupon two others were appointed in their stead by the crowd of Missourians who surrounded the polls. The newly appointed Judges refused to take the oath prescribed by Gov. Reeder, but made one to suit themselves. Andrew Johnson requested each voter to swear if he had a claim in the Territory, and if he had voted in another district. The Judges did not take the oath prescribed, but were sworn to receive all legal votes. The Missourians voted without being sworn. They supported H. J. Stickler for Council, and M. W. McGee for Representative. They left the evening of election. Some of them started on horseback for Lawrence; they said they could be there before night, and all went the way they came. The census list shows 53 legal voters in the District. 253 votes were cast; of these 25 were residents; 17 of whom were in the district when the census was taken. Some of the residents present at the polls did not vote, declaring it useless. Candidates declined to run on the free state ticket, because they were unwilling to run the risk of so unequal a contest, it being known that a great many were coming up from Missouri to vote. Nearly all the settlers were free state men, and 23 of the 25 legal votes given were cast for the only free state candidates running. Mobiler McGee, who was declared elected Representative, had a claim—a saw mill and a house in the Territory—and he was there part of the time. But his legal residence was then, and is now, near Westport, in Missouri, where he owns and conducts a valuable farm, and where his family resides.

EIGHTH DISTRICT.

This was attached to the 7th District for a member of the Council and a Representative, and its vote was controlled by the illegal vote cast then. The census shows 59 votes in it—37 votes were cast, of whom a majority voted the free state ticket.

NINTH DISTRICT.

Fort Riley and Pawnee are in this District. The latter place was selected by the Governor as the temporary capital; and he designed there to expend the sums appropriated by Congress in the construction of suitable houses for the Legislature. A good deal of building was then being done at the fort near by. For these reasons a number of mechanics, mostly from Pennsylvania, came into this district in March, 1855, to seek employment. Some of these voted at the election. The construction of the capital was first postponed, then abandoned, and finally the site of the town was declared by the Secretary of War, to be within the military reservation of Fort Riley. Some of the inhabitants returned to the States, and some to other parts of the Territory. Your Committee find that they came as settlers, intending to remain as such, and were entitled to vote.

TENTH DISTRICT.

In this District ten persons belonging to the Wyandott tribe of Indians voted. They were of that class who under the law were entitled to vote, but their residence was in Wyandott village at the mouth of the Kansas River, and they had no right to vote in this District. They voted the pro-slavery ticket. Eleven men recently from Pennsylvania voted the free state ticket. From the testimony, they had not, at the time of the election, so established their residence as to have entitled them to vote. In both these classes of cases the Judges examined the voters under oath, and allowed them to vote, and in all respects the election seems to have been conducted fairly. The rejection of both would not have changed the result. This and the 8th Election District, formed one Representative District, and was the only one to which the invasion from Missouri did not extend.

ELEVENTH DISTRICT.

The 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th election Districts, being all sparsely settled, were attached together as a Council District, and the 11th and 12th as a Representative District. This Election District is 60 miles north from Pawnee, and 150 miles from Kansas City. It is the north-west settlement in the Territory, and contained, when the census was taken, but 36 inhabitants, of whom 24 were voters. There was, on the day of election, no white settlement about Marysville, the place of voting, for 40 miles, except that Marshall & Bishop kept a store and ferry at the crossing of the Big Blue and California road. Your committee was unable to procure witnesses from this District. Persons who were present at the election, were duly summoned by an officer, and among them was F. J. Marshall, the member of the House from that District. On his return the officer was arrested and detained, and persons bearing the names of some of the witnesses summoned, were stopped near Leecompton, and did not appear before the Committee. The returns show that, in defiance of the Governor's proclamation, the voting was *rite voce*, instead of by ballot. 328 names appear upon the poll books, as voting, and by comparing these names with those on the census rolls, we find that but 7 of the latter voted. The person voted for as Representative, F. J. Marshall, was chief owner of the store at Marysville, and was there sometimes, but his family lived in Weston. John Donaldson, the candidate voted for, for the Council, then lived in Jackson County, Missouri.

On the day after the election, Mr. Marshall, with 25 or 30 men from Weston, Mo., was on the way from Marysville to the State. Some of the party told a witness, who had formerly resided at Weston, that they were up at Marysville and carried the day for Missouri, and that they had voted about 150 votes. Mr. Marshall paid the bill at that point for the party.

There does not appear to have been any emigration into that District in March, 1855, after the census was taken, and judging from the best test in the power of your Committee, there were but 7 legal votes cast in the District, and 321 illegal.

TWELFTH DISTRICT.

The election in this District was conducted fairly. No complaint was made that illegal votes were cast.

THIRTEENTH DISTRICT.

Previous to the day of election, several hundreds of Missourians from Platte, Clay, Boone, Clinton, and Howard Counties, came into the District in wagons and on horseback, and camped there. They were armed with guns, revolvers and bowie knives, and had badges of hemp in their button-holes and elsewhere about their persons. They claimed to have a right to vote, from the fact that they were there on the ground, and had, or intended to make, claims in the Territory, although their families were in Missouri.

The Judges appointed by the Governor opened the polls, and some persons offered to vote, and when their votes were rejected, on the ground that they were not residents of the District, the crowd threatened to tear the house down, if the Judges did not leave. The Judges then withdrew, taking the poll books with them. The crowd then proceeded to select other persons to act as Judges, and the election went on. Those persons voting, who were sworn, were asked if they considered themselves residents of the District, and if they said they did, they were allowed to vote. But few of the residents were present and voted, and the Free State men, as a general thing, did not vote. After the Missourians got through voting, they returned home. A formal return was made by the Judges of election, setting out the facts, but it was not verified. The number of legal voters in this District was 46, of whom a majority were Free State men. Of these—voted. The total number of votes cast was 269.

FOURTEENTH DISTRICT.

It was generally rumored in this District, for some days before the election, that the Missourians were coming over to vote. Previous to the election, men from Missouri came into the District and electioneered for the Pro-Slavery candidates. Gen. David R. Atchison and a party controlled the nominations in one of the primary elections.

BURN OAK PRECINCT.

Several hundred Missourians from Buchanan, Platte and Andrew Counties, Mo., including a great many of the prominent citizens of St. Joseph, came into this precinct the day before, and on the day of election in wagons and on horses, and encamped there. Arrangements were made for them to cross the ferry at St. Joseph, free of expense to themselves. They were armed with bowie knives and pistols, guns and rifles. On the morning of the election, the Free State candidates resided in a body, on account of the presence of the large number of armed Missourians, at which the crowd cheered and hurrahed. Gen. B. F. Stringfellow was present, and was prominent in promoting the election of the Pro-Slavery ticket, as was also Hon. Willard P. Hall, and others of the most prominent citizens of St. Joseph, Mo. But one of the Judges of Election, appointed by the Governor, served on that day, and the crowd chose two others to supply the vacancies.

The Missourians said they came there to vote for and secure the election of Major Wm. P. Richardson. Major Richardson, elected to the Council, had had a farm in Missouri, where his wife and daughter lived with his son-in-law, Willard P. Hall, he himself generally going home to Missouri every Saturday night. The farm was generally known as the Richardson farm. He had a claim in the Territory upon which was a saw-mill, and where he generally remained during the week.

Some of the Missourians gave as their reason for voting, that they had heard that Eastern emigrants were to be at that election, though no Eastern emigrants were there. Others said that they were going to vote for the purpose of making Kansas a Slave State.

Some claimed that they had a right to vote under the provisions of